

“Anyone who thinks that you can have infinite growth in a finite environment is either a madman or an economist.”

– SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH, NATURALIST
AND BROADCASTER

BIODIVERSITY

PROBLEM

Although the past 30 years have been marked with significant progress in the struggle to maintain the Earth’s resources, adequate protection and management of biodiversity is one issue that continues to suffer. Reports show that between 1970 to 2010, up to 52 percent of the world’s biodiversity was lost. The United Nations warns that “pressures on biodiversity will continue to increase at least until 2020, and that the status of biodiversity will continue to decline.”

There are no one-size-fits-all solutions. Strategies and actions must be adapted for local contexts and coupled with multilateral approaches, combining the efforts of international actors and national governments as well as community-level initiatives. Winrock International has a legacy stretching back almost 40 years of engaging with communities in Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and North America with these multifaceted approaches.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

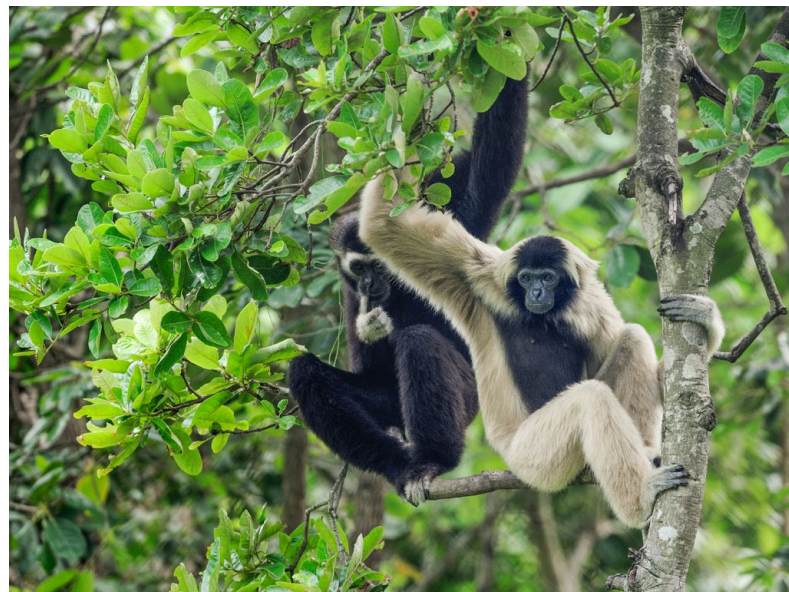
Winrock brings a unique institutional blend of scientific expertise and project management competency across our \$100M portfolio of agriculture, civil society, education, clean energy, water and environmental programs. Our dedicated units on Forestry & Natural Resource Management and Ecosystem Services combine research and proven techniques with training and policy initiatives to tackle threats to biodiversity while boosting economic opportunity. Our work with governments, the private sector and local communities, including some of the world’s most disadvantaged, is helping improve management of terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems around the world.

We are committed to developing the capacity of our partners, individuals and institutions to identify and address the complex problems facing our natural world.

Our programs build human and institutional capacities to make informed, data-driven decisions on the management of biodiversity and natural resources. We track results with robust monitoring and evaluation methods, and we integrate adaptive management techniques across programs to ensure maximum impact in sites prone to rapid shifts in political, economic and social pressures.

Winrock designs and applies innovative approaches to address key drivers of terrestrial, coastal and marine biodiversity loss such as:

- Integrated Natural Resource Management
- Developing alternate livelihoods for people who rely on unsustainable resource use
- Securing the rights, tenure and access to natural resources for the people who most depend on them, and helping those people become skilled environmental stewards
- Providing technological solutions that give decision-makers the information they need to make informed choices and trade-offs between development and conservation
- Using sustainable financing to support improved environmental management, from small-scale savings groups to national PES mechanisms



ACHIEVEMENTS

Although no single project can fully counter a biodiversity threat, some notable recent successes include:



BANGLADESH

Climate change and a growing population are putting increasing levels of stress on Bangladesh's forests, wetlands and other ecosystems. The USAID-funded [Climate Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods \(CREL\)](#) program (2012–2018) helped disseminate management methods that help communities better collaborate with governments to protect biodiversity while sustaining economic development.



CAMBODIA

Through the USAID-funded [Supporting Forests and Biodiversity](#) project (2012–18), Winrock was instrumental in establishing the Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary, one of Southeast Asia's largest remaining tracts of highly biodiverse lowland forests. The project also strengthened the management of other protected areas, formalized civil society networks, and helped protect endangered flora and fauna.



CHINA

Tibetans have long relied on the natural environment for their livelihoods. But climate change and other factors threaten the future viability of Tibet's traditional herding and agriculture practices in the region. The Western China Environment and Public Participation Project engages communities in Western China, providing them with the knowledge and tools they need to adapt to a changing environment in ways that preserve their natural resources, livelihoods and culture.



GHANA

The USAID Feed the Future Ghana [Agriculture and Natural Resource Management](#) project (AgNRM, 2016–18) strengthened both food security and natural resource management in northern Ghana. For instance, the improved management of shea nuts boosted incomes, and household gardens, cook stoves and improved water management improved food security. The project also secured land tenure and strengthened environmental stewardship over Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs).



SENEGAL

A sixth of Senegal's population relies on fisheries for their livelihood, yet the sector faces challenges posed by poor fisheries management practices and increasing domestic and international demand for fish. The USAID-funded [Senegal Dekkal Geej](#) (2019–2024) project is working with the Senegalese government, the private sector and with local fishers along more than 4,600 square miles of coastline to improve food security, increase incomes and strengthen resilience.



VIETNAM

Winrock is supporting the acceleration of Vietnam's transition to climate-resilient, low-emissions development by working collaboratively with policymakers, communities and civil society. The USAID-funded [Vietnam Forests and Deltas \(VFD\)](#) program (2011–present) supports the adoption of land use practices that slow, stop and reverse emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through better land use and economic planning as well as improved funding that incentivizes sustainable practices. The adoption of Payment for Forest and Environmental Services (PFES) schemes has generated over \$400M in revenues that are reinvested into ongoing watershed management and conservation interventions.



SNAPSHOT OF WINROCK'S POSITIVE IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION OVER THE PAST DECADE:



52,253,291

Tonnes CO₂e of greenhouse gas emissions reduced, sequestered or avoided through sustainable landscape activities



255

Laws, policies and regulations on biodiversity proposed, implemented or adopted



177,979

Number of people trained in improved natural resource management, climate change and biodiversity conservation practices



4,840,958

Number of hectares of biological significance under improved management



2,201,589

Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management